



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CYPRUS

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Cypriots Forge Business Alliances Across Green Line

The launching of an interactive web portal (www.cpnnet.net) that will facilitate trade across the dividing Green Line was the latest in a series of accomplishments of the Cyprus Producers' Network (CPN) bi-communal project. The CPN project is a collaborative venture that included the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Industry and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce. In the CPN project, funded by USAID's Action for Cooperation and Trust project, the Chambers collaborated to launch several initiatives designed to create trust, cooperation and links among businesspeople from the two communities including a comprehensive survey of attitudes towards Green Line trade in both communities; several business to business meetings that paired Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot business people; and the launching of the CPN web portal. CPN activities promoted the development of contact and interaction between the business people in both communities that is necessary in order to establish long-term business relationships.



The portal—designed after an island-wide survey of businesses and a series of sector-specific, bicomunal business-to-business meetings—will promote trade and economic interaction between Cyprus' estranged business communities through the island's three main business associations.

Historic Building Saved, Transformed into Cultural Center



Ambassador Urbancic helps to cut the ribbon at the opening of the French Turkish Cypriot Cultural Center. USAID funded much of the building's restoration.

Through a small grant from the Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE) project, USAID teamed up with the French Embassy and the French Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association to save a historic Ottoman house—itsself a symbol of Cyprus' multicultural past—and transform it into a beautifully restored center for learning and cultural events. The center will be a venue for community activities and cross cultural dialogue and learning, contributing to the overall U.S. goal of bringing the Turkish Cypriot Community closer to Europe as part of a lasting settlement on the island. The project also complements previous investments in the revitalization of the Arabahmet neighborhood, one of Nicosia's most historically diverse.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises



Continuing to serve as a model of community-based-tourism development and supported by USAID technical

assistance, the village of Buyukkonuk/Komi Kebir celebrated its second annual “EcoDays” festival, attracting hundreds of visitors to see local musical and artistic talent, ride donkeys, and learn about traditional weaving, milling and food making. As part of its ongoing efforts to provide training opportunities in key areas such as banking, EDGE organized its second “International Trade Finance” course October 23-24 in Nicosia with locally recruited trainers. The course was one of sixteen courses for banking sector professionals over the past three years that have trained more than 150 people from more than ten different banks.

Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

SAVE launched its “[How Does Your Garden Grow](#)” brochure which demonstrates how to save water while maintaining a beautiful garden even with Cyprus’ high temperatures and water shortages. The colorful and practical brochure is attracting a lot of attention from the media (SAVE COP was interviewed by the TV and print media); academia (a local university will offer the guide to students and faculty at an upcoming event); and the public (garden stores are distributing large quantities to enthusiastic gardeners). SAVE held a soil moisture and iron bacteria training session for the agriculture extension service interns of the TC Chamber of Agricultural Engineers. SAVE is developing a restoration plan for the St. Mamas Bell Tower.

Action for Cooperation and Trust



Kids and teenagers who participated in ACT’s summer camps teamed up with professional actors to develop the concept and text for a multicultural

experimental theatre project, “Voicing and Staging the Experience,” a theatrical exploration of their own unique learning experiences in the bicomunal camps. The play is being performed every Sunday from October 12 through November 30. Nicosia became the sixth European capital to introduce new history workbooks—prepared as alternative history teaching material for all Southeastern European countries under the aegis of the Joint History Project, initiated by the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe and partially funded by ACT. Teachers from both communities participated in courses preparing to bring the books to the classroom. The ACT-funded “Diversity Ambassadors” project held a poster competition. The posters shown here, and the others from the series entitled “Labels are for Clothes,” won first prize and have been reproduced and distributed widely.





News from Nicosia

October 10

UN announces the decision of the leaders of the two Communities to meet on a weekly basis.

October 13

President Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat begin weekly meetings.

October 22

The two leaders meet for the fourth time since the start of the renewed UN-facilitated talks process.



Using SAVE's Famagusta Walking Tour brochure as his guide, U.S. Ambassador Urbancic explores the "outdoor museum" of historic Famagusta. SAVE's activities in Famagusta have increased awareness of the importance of the cultural heritage assets of the city and the role they can play in attracting investment and visitors. EDGE also began focusing its sustainable tourism expertise on Famagusta in August 2008, facilitating the formation of a Destination Development Steering Committee to drive/oversee implementation of a plan that would result in effective management of the Walled City historical site, strategic promotion of the City, and ultimately an increase in the number and quality of visitors.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.